

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /056 W
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R 032006Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5636
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBSSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 2891

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, PINT, JM
SUBJECT: BRIGADIER GREEN MADE MAJOR GENERAL; JDF TO EXPAND

REF: KINGSTON 2874

1. PRIME MINISTER MICHAEL MANLEY, WEARING HIS DEFENSE MINISTERS HELMET, ANNOUNCED ON JUNE 1 THAT THE JAMAICA DEFENCE FORCE (JDF) WILL BE REORGANIZED AND EXPANDED, AND THAT BRIGADIER RUDOLPH GREEN, THE JDF'S CHIEF OF STAFF, WILL BE RAISED IN RANK TO MAJOR GENERAL.
2. THE REORGANIZATION, WHICH INVOLVES A NUMBER OF PROMOTIONS TO FILL NEWLY-CREATED POSTS, WILL INCLUDE INTER ALIA THE CREATION OF A SECOND REGULAR INFANTRY BATTALION; DAO JAMAICA REPORTS THAT THE NEW BATTALION WILL BE STATIONED AT MONEAGUE, TWELVE MILES INLAND FROM OCHO RIOS. CURRENT CALCULATIONS SUGGEST THAT THE EXPANSION OF THE JDF, WHICH INCLUDES AN INCREASE IN THE SIZE OF THE COAST GUARD, WILL INCREASE ITS SIZE FROM THE PRESENT ESTIMATE OF

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2500 MEN TO A POSSIBLE 3400.

3. COMMENT: THE PROMOTION OF GREEN AND THE PLANNED INCREASE IN SIZE OF THE JDF CLEARLY SUGGEST THAT THE FEARS EXPRESSED EARLIER THIS YEAR ABOUT THE POSSIBLE ASCENDANCY OF THE HOME GUARD CAN BE LAID TO REST. WHILE THE HOME GUARD CONTINUES TO RECRUIT, THE

FIRM LIMITATIONS PLACED ON ITS PUBLIC SECURITY ROLE (SEE KINGSTON 1825) AND THE DECISION TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF THE JDF WOULD SEEM TO INSURE THAT THE MISSION OF THE JDF WOULD SEEM TO INSURE THAT THE MISSION OF THE JDF WILL NOT BE DIMINISHED BUT, RATHER, ENHANCED. IN HIS STATEMENT REGARDING THE EXPANSION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE JDF WILL BE "REQUIRED TO UNDERTAKE ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING ASSISTANCE IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROJECTS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY" BUT THERE SEEMS NO REASON TO THINK -- AS SOME DID IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR -- THAT THE JDF WOULD BECOME A KIND OF CONSTRUCTION ELEMENT WHILE THE HOME GUARD INCREASINGLY TOOK OVER RESPONSIBILITY FOR INTERNAL SECURITY. THIS CONCLUSION GAINED STRENGTH WHEN MANLEY, IN THE COURSE OF ADDRESSING NEW RECRUITS TO THE HOME GUARD ON JUNE 2, TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRAISE GREEN, DESCRIBING HIM AS A "VERY DISTINGUISHED AND ABLE JAMAICAN" WHO HAD MADE A "TREMENDOUS CONTRIBUTION" TO THE COUNTRY. IT WAS AN EXCELLENT CHOICE OF VENUE AT WHICH TO ESTABLISH THE RELATIVE ROLES OF THE JDF AND THE HOME GUARD.

4. FOR DAO JAMAICA REPORTING ON THE REORGANIZATION, SEE IR 69050017/77, IR 690020/77 AND 69050024/77.
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